1. PHONEMES

Pawnee is a phonetically simple language; in fact, one of the most simple in North America. Its inventory of consonants (including a laryngeal glide) numbers ten and is one of the smallest inventories found in the languages of the world.[1] Of these ten distinctive consonant segments at the systematic phonetic level, eight are present at the systematic phonemic level; hence it is obvious that phonetic variation of any notable sort is minimal. Likewise the vocalic inventory is small. There are four vowels at both the systematic phonetic and phonemic levels.[2]

1.1 Inventory of Phonemes

The phonemes of Pawnee are as follows:

Consonants

	Labial	Alveolar	Velar
Obstruents	p	t	k
		c	
		s	
Sonorants	w	r	

Laryngeal h

Vowels

	Front	Back
High	i	u
Mid-Low	e	a

Length :

Parks, Douglas R. 1976. A Grammar of Pawnee. New York/London: Garland Publishing.